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RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 2192  
RUEHKP/AMCONSUL KARACHI PRIORITY 7978  
RUEHLH/AMCONSUL LAHORE PRIORITY 4005  
RUEHPW/AMCONSUL PESHAWAR PRIORITY 2530  
RUEHNO/USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY 3223  
RUMICEA/USCENTCOM INTEL CEN MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 ISLAMABAD 004814

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/09/2017  
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [PK](#) [AEMR](#) [AMGT](#) [CASC](#) [KFLO](#) [PINR](#)  
SUBJECT: MGP01: SITREP 15, AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD: BHUTTO  
RETURNS HOME

REF: ISLAMABAD 4809

Classified By: Anne W. Patterson, Reasons 1.4 (b), (d)

11. (C) Summary: Pakistan People's Party leader Benazir Bhutto retreated back into her house late November 9 after attempting to go to Rawalpindi to lead her party's demonstration. Her Islamabad home is now surrounded by police and barricades, a virtual if not yet official house arrest. Bhutto vowed to continue the protests. Demonstrations continued in other large cities today; many were peaceful, though PPP gatherings often resulted in clashes and/or arrests. The home of Federal Minister for Public Affairs in Peshawar was bombed, killing four; all Consulate Peshawar personnel are accounted for and the CG does not recommend further travel restrictions.. Islamabad CG confirmed that AmCit Hashmat Dilawari was arrested November 6 at the Lahore courthouse, and has been transferred to Central Jail. Embassy is attempting to get access to Dilawari. Mission operations continue normally. End summary.

Bhutto Returns Home  
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12. (C) Police successfully prevented Pakistan People's Party (PPP) leader Benazir Bhutto from traveling to Rawalpindi to attend the scheduled PPP rally. RSO sources report that police baton-charged the crowd and arrested about 50 supporters who had gathered outside the house. As of 1700, Bhutto had returned to her house. A high-level PPP source with Bhutto reported that no arrest warrant had been served; therefore, the party considered today's events to be an illegal confinement. Jersey barriers now block Bhutto's street.

13. (U) Speaking to the media on the scene, Bhutto announced that "I have ended talks with the government." She also called for protests to continue, adding "I do not fear death, only Allah." In part responding to our talking points, Bhutto claimed that her actions "are not meant to polarize the situation" but to lead Pakistan to true democracy.

AmCit Arrested  
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14. (C) Islamabad CG confirmed that an AmCit, Hashmat Dilawari, was arrested November 6 at the Lahore courthouse.

According to his son in the U.S., Dilawari was visiting a friend and not part of the protests there the same day. The Deputy Director of Prisons for Punjab confirmed that Dilawari has been transferred to Central Jail Jehlum. Embassy was informed that access would not be granted without a formal request; a diplomatic note is with the MFA. We understand he has a heart condition.

Protests; Some Violence  
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15. (C) Approximately 5,000 police continue to patrol Rawalpindi. RSO sources report that police fired tear gas at a caravan of PPP workers trying to make their way to the PPP rally site and have fired rubber bullets into the crowd, though Post has not received information on the size of the crowd.

16. (C) CG Peshawar reported that a bomb exploded at the house of Amir Muqam, Federal Minister for Political Affairs and President of the Pakistan Muslim League (PML) in the Northwest Frontier Province (NWFP). The attack occurred in Hayatabad, a Peshawar suburb about a 10-minute drive from the U.S. Consulate. According to media reports, 4 were killed very near the house -- three security staff and the suicide bomber. All Consulate personnel are accounted for and CG Peshawar does not recommend any further travel restrictions beyond those already in place.

17. (U) Several rallies in Peshawar and throughout the NWFP took place on November 9. CG Peshawar reported a heavy police presence, and a lack of high-ranking opposition leaders at most rallies. Tear gas was reportedly used to

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disburse the gathering of 50 PPP supporters in front of Peshawar's Chamber of Commerce. The demonstration called by the All Pakistan Democratic Movement (APDM) only drew about 100 people.

18. (U) A dozen young people burned tires in Karachi's PPP stronghold of Lyari in protest of Bhutto's house arrest, as reported in the media. Up to 100 journalists assembled at the Karachi Press Club to observe a "black day." There were no reports of arrests or violence at either site.

19. (U) CG Lahore met November 9 with Asma Jahangir, chairperson of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan. The CG commented to the assembled press that he reiterated the USG's commitment to elections and call on Musharraf to resign as Chief of Army Staff (COAS).

PATTERSON